

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02356 260843Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 260800Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7765
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2356

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LE PINT
SUBJ: NATIONAL MOVEMENT CONDEMNS COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN'S
COMMUNIQUE

REF: BEIRUT 2295

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAS CONDEMNED
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN'S APRIL 23
COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON APRIL 24, THE
NATIONAL MOVEMENT COMPLAINED THAT IT WAS NOT REPRESENTED
ON THE COMMITTEE AND THAT "THOSE WHO SIGNED DECLARATION
REPRESENT ONLY THEMSELVES." THE STATEMENT STRESSED
THAT TOP PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE ISRAELI
OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON, AND ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE
SHOULD HAVE ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF THE "CONFESSIONAL
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ARMED PRESENCE" WHICH MOVES "HAND IN HAND" WITH THE
ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON. THE STATEMENT
ALSO NOTED THAT "THE ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE, DERIVES
ITS LEGITIMACY FROM THE OFFICIAL (CAIRO AND RIYADH)
AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES."

3. THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) ISSUED A

STATEMENT ALONG SIMILAR LINES AND ADDED THAT THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT DID NOT REFLECT THE WILL OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE, AN ALLUSION TO THE FACT THAT THE LAST ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN 1972. AL MURABITUN LEADER IBRAHIM QULAYLAT TOLD LEFTIST AL LIWA THAT THE COMMITTEE'S COMMUNIQUE PROVIDED A POLITICAL SERVICE TO THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON.

4. FORMER PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI, WHO HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, OBLIQUELY CRITICIZED THE COMMITTEE BY SAYING THAT ANY STEP IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT GENUINE RECONCILIATION AND A DEFINITE PROGRAM OF REFORMS. HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT SARKIS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE. HE NOTED THAT THE LEBANESE FRONT'S ATTITUDE ON THE MUSLIM PROPOSAL FOR JOINT COMMAND OF THE LEBANESE ARMY SHOULD BE EXPLORED.

5. ALBERT MANSOUR, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 25 THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS A FORMULA FOR POLITICAL WARFARE, NOT ENTENTE (SEPTTEL).
PARKER

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